

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15 OIC-04 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5681

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 0498

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG APER SG UNESCO (M'BOW, A)

SUBJ: CASTAFRICA: UNESCO DG ISSUE

REF: STATE 15591; STATE 17454

1. AS CONFERENCE GROUND SLOWLY FORWARD FIRST SIX DAYS, CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS EMERGED ON ISSUE OF ELECTION OF DG. SOME HAGGLING OVER PROCEDURE IN EARLY STAGES MEETING AND EVOLVING AIR OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DELS AND UNESCO SECRETARIAT OVER WHAT DESCRIBED AS SECRETARIAT'S HIGH-HANDED ATTITUDE TOWARD AFRICAN DELS PRODUCED WILLINGNESS SOME AFRICAN DELS TO DISCUSS DG ISSUE, EXPRESSING UNANIMOUS SUPPORT M'BOW CANDIDACY. OPEN FLOOR FIGHT NEARLY PROVOKED BY STRONG SIERRA LEONEAN STATEMENT ABOUT MAHEU'S HANDLING OF MEETING BUT THIS AVOIDED BY AFRICAN DELS DESIRE TO CONCENTRATE ON SUBSTANCE OF MEETING AND BY ADROIT PRESIDENCY OF CONFERENCE BY DJIBRIL SENE OF SENEGAL.

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2. WHILE NOT ALL AFRICAN DELS WILLING TO EXPRESS VIEWS

ON SUBJECT, SOME VERY FORTHCOMING. ETHIOPIAN PERMREP
UNESCO MISSGINA REPORTED TO US THAT AFRICAN FRUSTRATION
WITH SECRETARIAT (AND MAHEU) WAS NEARLY COMPLETE, AND
HE WAS CONFIDENT AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR M'BOW NOW QUOTE
100 PERCENT UNQUOTE. OTHER AFRICAN DELS NOT QUITE SO
DIRECT, BUT ALL INTERESTED US POSITION ON SUBJECT,
WHICH GIVEN THEM ON BASIS REFTELS. SOME AFRICAN DELS
FEEL MARCHAND WILL GET ILO DG JOB, AFTER WHICH WOULD
BE DIFFICULT FOR FRANCE OR US TO SUPPORT MAHEU FOR
RE-ELECTION. AS M'BOW ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE, MANY
AFRICANS SAID THEY EXPECT US SUPPORT FOR HIM.

3. NO SIGNIFICANT OBERVER DEL VIEWS ON SUBJECT,
EXCEPT FROM DELS OF UK AND USSR. UK DEL CONVEYED
IMPRESSION FRENCH HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE
ON MARCHAND CANDIDACY AT ILO AND TO LET CHIPS FALL
WHERE THEY MAY ON MAHEU, CITING FRENCH OFFICIAL SOURCES
IN PARIS AS NOTING DIFFICULTY GETTING TWO FRENCHMEN
INTO DG POSITIONS AT SAME TIME. IOKONNIKOV, USSR OBSDEL,
(USSR COMMISSION FOR UNESCO) SAW M'BOW-MAHEU BATTLE
CAUSING SO MUCH UPSET AT UNESCO THAT POSSIBILITY OF
THIRD CANDIDATE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. HE SAID
SOLUTION WAS TO ELECT FINNISH CANDIDATE, OF WHOSE
CANDIDACY WE WERE NOT AWARE.

4. SENEGALESE HAVE NOT RAISED SUBJECT WITH US DELS
DURING CONFERENCE.
AGGREY

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